

August 14th 2005: OT review: Song of Songs: 6:4-13

Have you ever wondered why God would place a Love Story....?

To call it Mills and Boons.....degrade it
FOR it is a pure and beautiful expression of passionate love...w/in marriage
YET it is still a love.....quite graphic descriptions

(when as a teenager I first discovered.....a life saver !!)

SO WHY WOULD GOD INCLUDE IT IN HIS PRECIOUS WORD ??

For me there can be no doubt about the reason....and it is twofold

First....Love between a man and a woman in the sanctity of marriage....
Is very special to God....

When God initially created man and woman

When he worked on the blueprint for the human species
He put within us the potential to love Him.....and to love one

To be attracted to one another

To commit one's life to one special other
And to be sexually intimate.....within the security of a covenant that we call

This sin affected world has mucked it up well and truly

It has made love and sex a marketable product.....cheapened and corsened it
It has confused love with lust and lust with love

Our Society has endorsed sex outside of a covenant of commitment

Seeing it as the satisfaction of inner urges..... instead of a precious gift

Unfortunately the majority.....no longer see it as God meant it....→
...as the substance of a pure relationship lived out b4 a holy God
who delights to bless and enhance our unions

This Song of Solomon.....also called the song of all songs

Is a bold and positive endorsement by God....
of marital love in all its physical and emotional beauty

It tells the story from the viewpoint of young love.....so passionate

Yet it also assumes.....such young love will mature into an enduring emotion
That will sustain two people as they grow old together.

This is love as created by God to dwell in a man and a woman

And in the end we need the involvement of God in our marriages,,,,,,
.....to make such love a reality.....**For as 8: 6 says.....**

The love story itself.....can be a little hard to follow

We see that there are three speakers...and that helps

The Beloved is the maiden: : The Lover is Solomon The friends are the ladies

The order of happenings is not as listed.....Theses are poems
.and some of the poems are the recording of dreams....
.....and not real events

On top of that we find it hard to credit Solomon.....with such an act of love & devotion

THAT'S WHY I HAVE SET OUT IN THE NOTES AN EXPLANATION

Regarding Solomon.....he lived in an age where multiple wives ...acceptable
Especially for rulers

Each time a treaty was made.....a woman became part of the agreement

From early on Solomon was extending his influence.....making treaties....
In 1 Kings 3:1.....made a treaty with Pharoah.....and Pharoah's daughter.....

Solomon wrote this song while still young.....Yet by this time.....6:8

60 queens and 80 concubines 1000

Women that were political trade offs.....not the fruit of his love
Then true love entered his life

It seems from 8:11 that solomon had a vineyard.....away from jerusalem
In the country of the Shulamite
Part of which he leased out.....a family of brothers and a sister

It was these brothers who made her work.....she becomes heavily tanned
Dark and brown====So different to the ladies in the kings court

And it was there in the vineyard.....that the king first met her
Not as a king but as a shepherd.....looking after his vineyard

He begins to court her without telling her who he really is.....Then returns to Jerusalem

She misses him greatly....and chapter 3 is the record of a dream....
in which she went looking for him.....couldn't find him
But then in 3:6 onwards Solomon returns for her in all his finery.....v6-7.....

From then on the separate songs.....take us to the palace....prepared for the wedding
Then to their intimate times after the wedding
Then a time when he has to go away on business.....**and in 5:2-7 she has a nightmare**
over her lover's absence

But her lover does return and praises her beauty
And finally she encourages him to take her back home.. :: a visit....all began

That's the simple story.....

But as I said at the start...theres a second reason why God

In the Old testament Israel is regarded as the bride of the Lord
Read Jeremiah 2.....where God says to his rebellious people

I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown...

Then in the NT.....the church is seen as the bride of Christ

That God ordained....pure and perfect relationship.....of a husband with a wife
→Beautiful in itself.....IS ALSO

a God given illustration.....of the depth of relationship.....Jesus desires to have

Like the story.....Though He is King.....He cameas a human being
As the Good Shepherd He sought each of us.....in order to take us back with Him

And the wonder of this illustration....is that Jesus looks upon each of us.....
With a love that is beyond explanation

The maiden in the song.....was so aware of her inferiority

She knew she was darkened.....amongst those:
She knew her hands were toughened by hard work.....
She knew how poor she was.....and how rich he was

Yet he loved her so much

You may very well....has an extremely low opinion of yourself.....Jesus doesn't share
To Him you are the apple of his eye

He wants you to become evermore aware of how much He loves you
That you might truly know(as Eph 3:18)...how wide..long..high..deep is the love

Theres a most moving story of love...in Luke 7:36-50.....About a woman
..lived a sinful life.....touched by Jesus: She had exp His love....So she came to Him
Did not feel worthy even.....Said of her---SHE LOVES MUCH

How are you responding to the love that Jesus.....Does He look at u.....& say
Loves much.

